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American Party's Klan Link Denied

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — (AP) — The American Party's national campaign director contends the Ku Klux Klan is trying to "marry" the party.

The Klan's Indiana grand dragon in turn says the Klan simply has many members that legitimately belong to the American Party, and that the Klan in the past has agreed with the principles put forth by Gov. George Wallace, the party's founder.

This exchange came about when James M. Toevs, campaign director for the American Party national ticket of John Schmitz and Tom Anderson, called a news conference to "clarify" the Indiana situation.

BOTH the Indiana American Independent Party and the American Party of Indiana are circulating petitions to get Schmitz and Anderson in the state ballot in November.

Toevs said the IAIP was the "authentic" Indiana representative of the national American Party.

"THERE appears to be a calculated attempt by the Klan to publicly marry the American Party. . . . I have no sympathy with the Klan whatsoever, and the leaders of the American Party have little in common with the Klan," Toevs said.

William M. Chaney, Indiana grand dragon of the Klan, issued a rebuttal statement saying the Klan has "many people in the American Party and several in the American Independent Party, and the Klan in the last 10 years has said 'George Wallace' more times than any organization in America."